

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9. (canceled).

Claim 10. (currently amended): A communications system, comprising:
a packet-oriented communication network;
a plurality of communication terminals, connected to the packet-oriented communication network via a plurality of hubs; and
a switching system connected to the packet-oriented communication network ~~via which the switching system is connected to the plurality of communication terminals~~, the switching system including:

- a broadband access unit,
- a central unit,
- a plurality of conversion units and
- a switching matrix module,

wherein the broadband access unit is connected to the central unit via a time-slot-oriented link and is further connected to the packet-oriented communication network via at least one packet-oriented network access interface,

wherein the plurality of conversion units are allocated to the plurality of hubs via which a bidirectional conversion between a data format of the packet-oriented communication network and a time-slot-oriented data format is effected,

and wherein the switching matrix module combines data to be transmitted to the plurality of hubs from the conversion units for transmission via the packet-oriented network access interface.

Claim 11. (previously presented): A communications system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the broadband access unit has both a broadband bus system for transmitting a packet-

oriented data stream within the access unit and a narrowband bus system for transmitting a time-slot-oriented data stream within the access unit, and wherein the broadband bus system can be coupled to the narrowband bus system via the plurality of conversion units.

Claim 12. (previously presented): A communications system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the narrowband bus system is connected to a line trunk unit controller via which the broadband access unit can be connected to the central unit, which further includes a switching network and a central controller, via the time-slot-oriented link.

Claim 13. (previously presented): A communications system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the line trunk unit controller is connected to the central unit via at least one time-division multiplex-oriented 4-Mbit/s data communication link.

Claim 14. (previously presented): A communications system as claimed in claim 13, wherein a number of time-division multiplex-oriented 4 Mbit/s communication links can be determined by a number of the plurality of conversion units arranged in the broadband access unit.

Claim 15. (previously presented): A communications system as claimed in claim 11, wherein access units connected to the narrowband bus system are connected to one another via at least one time-division multiplex-oriented 2 Mbit/s communication links.

Claim 16. (previously presented): A communications system as claimed in claim 11, wherein both the broadband bus system and the narrowband bus system have access locations for a plurality of access units.

Claim 17. (previously presented): A communications system as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least one of the broadband access modules and the narrowband access modules can be connected to the access locations.

Claim 18. (previously presented): A communications system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the access units can be respectively connected to the broadband bus system via one 15 UTOPIA.